

**Edwards: Limestone County to Receive Local Law Enforcement Funding from Stimulus**

(Washington, D.C.) – United States Representative Chet Edwards announced today that the Limestone County Sheriff's Department will receive \$11,551 in funding from the Stimulus legislation signed by the President on February 17th. These funds will be distributed through the Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) program to the Sheriff's Department.

"Ensuring the safety of our communities is one of my top priorities," said Edwards. "These funds will help the Sheriff's Department upgrade equipment and keep our streets and law enforcement personnel safe."

The JAG program allows local governments to engage in a broad range of activities to prevent and control crime and improve their criminal justice system. It provides counties and cities wide flexibility to prioritize their needs and place justice funds where they are most needed. The grant award may be used to help pay for new personnel, law enforcement programs, prevention programs, multi-jurisdictional drug task forces, or technology improvement projects.

"Creating jobs and protecting our families from criminals are positive uses of federal stimulus funds," concluded Edwards.

Limestone County Sheriff Dennis Wilson said, "I am deeply appreciative of Congressman Edwards' dedication to and willingness to help fight crime in Limestone County and it is refreshing to know that we have support at the federal level for our local communities."

As announced last week, Edwards also secured \$250,000 for Limestone County local law enforcement in the fiscal year 2009 Omnibus Appropriations bill, which passed the House and is pending before the Senate. Approximately \$150,000 of the funds secured by Edwards will help local law enforcement bring together officers from the county to complete drug investigations. In addition, \$100,000 of the federal funds will help Limestone County purchase and install 10 new Mobile Data Terminals, new video equipment and compatible software installation to upgrade communications in law enforcement vehicles.